

VLR-6/20/89 NRHP-11/13/89

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for Individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Nealy Gordon Farm

other names/site number 60-392

street & number VA Routes 637 and 603

N/A  not for publication

city, town Brush Harbor

vicinity

state Virginia

code VA

county Montgomery

code 121

zip code 24087

### 3. Classification

#### Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

#### Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

#### Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>7</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<u>8</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Prehistoric and Historic Resources of Montgomery County

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Date

Director, Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register,  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwellingDomestic: secondary structuresAgriculture: animal facilitiesAgriculture: agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling: vacant/not in useDomestic: secondary structurevacant/not in usevacant/not in use**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: single-pen planOther: saddlebag plan

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone: limestonewalls wood: weatherboardroof metal: tin

other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The small two-story saddlebag farmhouse is located in a hilly section of rough mountain land. It is the result of three building campaigns beginning in the post-Civil War era and ending in about 1920. Nearby is a large collection of agricultural and domestic outbuildings, including a frame meathouse, privy, springhouse with lattice-enclosed forebay, hog shed, two large barns, and corncrib. The buildings are largely unused but in a good state of repair.

The house began as a nearly square log single-pen dwelling of two stories. It was supported on stone piers. A cellar beneath seems to have been added and has earthen and horizontal mud-insulated flush board walls. It is entered through a door in the east wall, the house being built into a bank. The floor above is supported by untrimmed log joists. The cornice is formed by a projecting log plate supported on projecting log ends. The house was heated by an exterior stone chimney on the west gable end. The log walls were originally whitewashed on the interior and exterior. The interior has received modern paneling. An enclosed stair in the southeast corner gives access to the second floor. The windows have six-over-six double-hung sashes. A simple Federal-type mantel with a splayed ornamental keystone is displayed at the fireplace, which has been lined with concrete in recent years.

A frame lateral addition was made to the west of the house about 1900, enclosing the chimney. A ladder stair was inserted to the south of the passage, giving access to the new second-floor room, and a passage was cut between the two first-floor rooms to the north of the chimney. The new wing has six-over-six double-hung sash windows and a door and window on each front in the same position as those on the original house. A porch connects the two sections across the south front, and also joins a semi-detached two-room kitchen ell built about 1920. A brick stack was added to the early stone chimney.

The outbuildings around the house are: a frame weatherboarded meathouse with an overhanging gable over off-

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

ca. 1875 - 1925

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Nealy Gordon Farm is significant under criterion C as an important assemblage of structures representing Appalachian farmhouse forms and their associated outbuildings. The farm also illustrates the changes in plan types associated with vernacular architecture in the area between the second half of the nineteenth century and the first quarter of the twentieth. The original house was a nearly square (approximately 17 x 18 feet) single-pen log house. As few as eight square or nearly square log houses from the mid- to late nineteenth century were identified in a Montgomery County survey of 1986, and only fourteen were identified from all periods. The Nealy Gordon House is one of the best preserved from among more than 125 houses of all types. The square plan is a recognized but relatively rare form, the most popular by far being the rectangular form. When altered by the addition of a frame wing the house assumed a form recognized by vernacular architectural historians as a popular additive form, the saddle-bag plan. While as few as three saddlebag-plan houses were identified from all periods in the county, it is a well known form in adjacent areas. The fact that the builder chose to execute an addition to a log house in a material other than log, and at such a late date, is indicative of the durability of traditional forms despite the emergence of competing popular house types of the period. The semi-detached ell is very unusual. The domestic and agricultural outbuildings are all contributing. All demonstrate the spacial layout and function of the farm and domestic space during the period of significance.

The house was built in the late nineteenth century by Nealy Gordon, according to his daughter, the current owner. She was born there, but her oldest sister, who was 85 in 1986, was not born there, although she is sure it was built well before 1901. Mrs. Dunn (Mary Gordon) lived on and maintained the farm

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Prehistoric and Historic  
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center doors to the north; a small saddle-notched log barn with a projecting round log plate, standing-seam metal roof, and weatherboard in the gable to the west; a frame privy; a frame weatherboarded springhouse to the east of the house with latticed forebay and standing-seam metal roof; and a frame hog shed to the southeast. An important agricultural complex that dates from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century is located to the south of the house. The complex includes a log single-crib barn that features a leanto on three sides, saddle-notched and untrimmed log joists, a square log plate, vertical boards in the gable, a corrugated metal roof, and a frame corncrib that stands nearby.

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until she moved in with her children in a house closer to the  
main road some years ago.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Dunn, Mary Gordon. Interview, June 1986.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

**Specify repository:**

Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
221 Governor Street  
Richmond, VA 23219

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property less than three acres

**UTM References**

A 

1	1	7
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5	6	1	9	0	1	0
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4	1	1	6	4	7	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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B 

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Zone Easting Northing

D 

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See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

Beginning at point A 40 feet north of a small barn and 85 feet west of the farm drive, and proceeding south 400 feet to point B 25 feet south of the large log barn, thence 265 feet east to point C 50 feet beyond creek, thence 400 feet north following line 50 feet east of creek to point D, thence 265 feet west to point A.

See continuation sheet

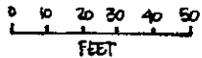
**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries were chosen to include the farmhouse, outbuildings, and landscape features associated with the domestic-related space and farm buildings.

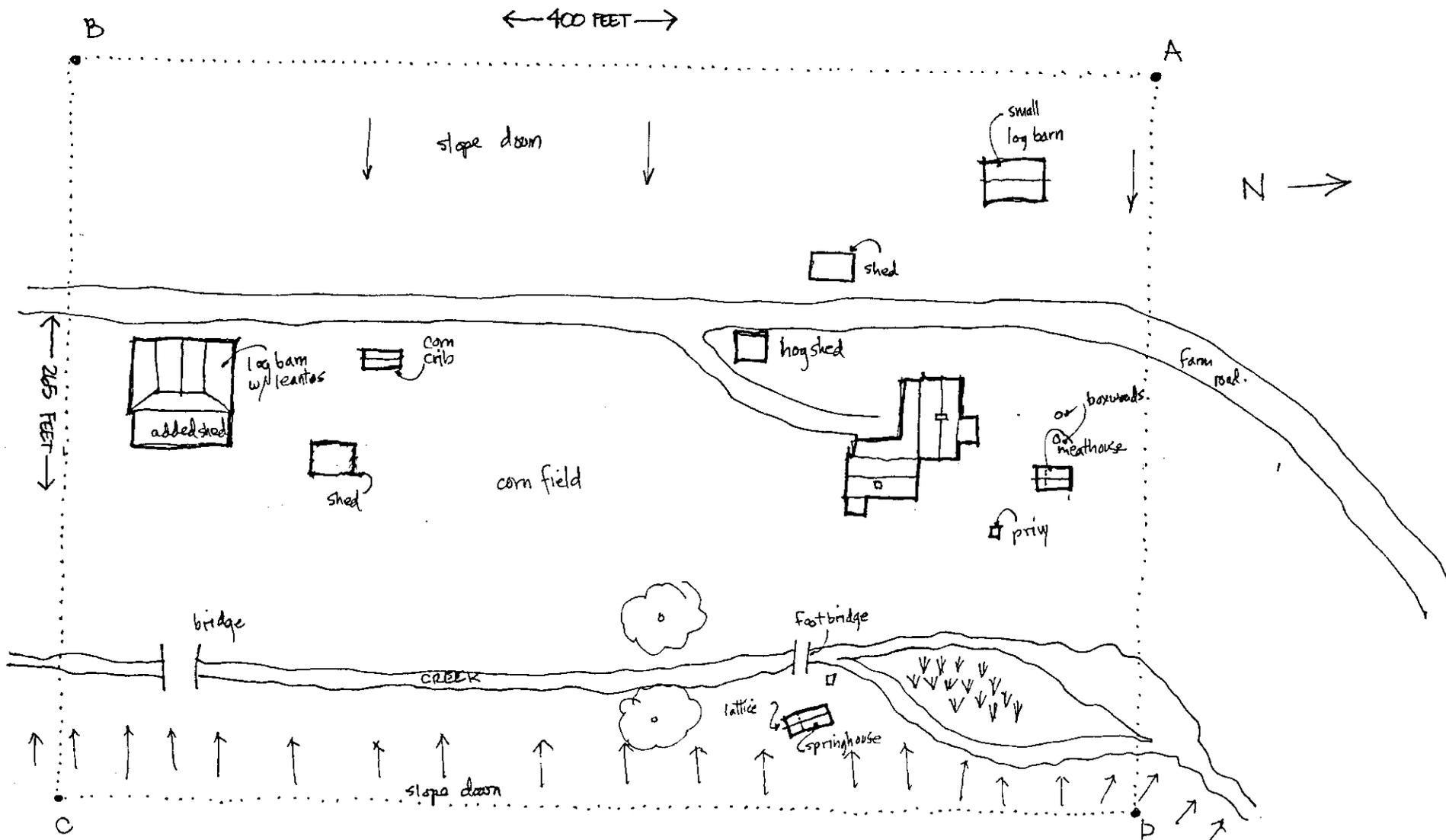
See continuation sheet

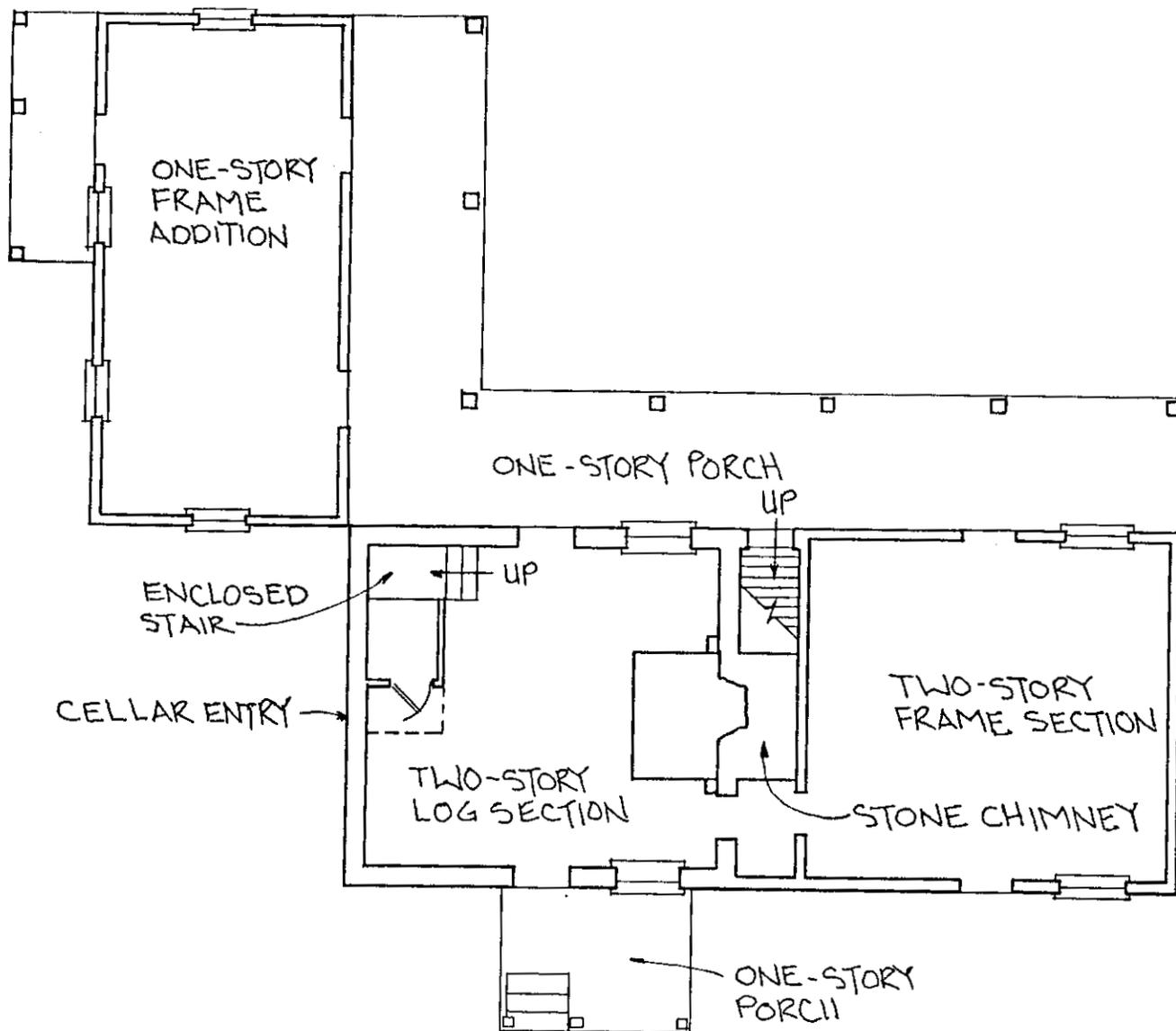
**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Gibson Worsham date June 1988  
organization Gibson Worsham, Architect telephone (703) 552-4730  
street & number Route 2, Yellow Sulphur Springs state Virginia zip code 24073  
city or town Christiansburg



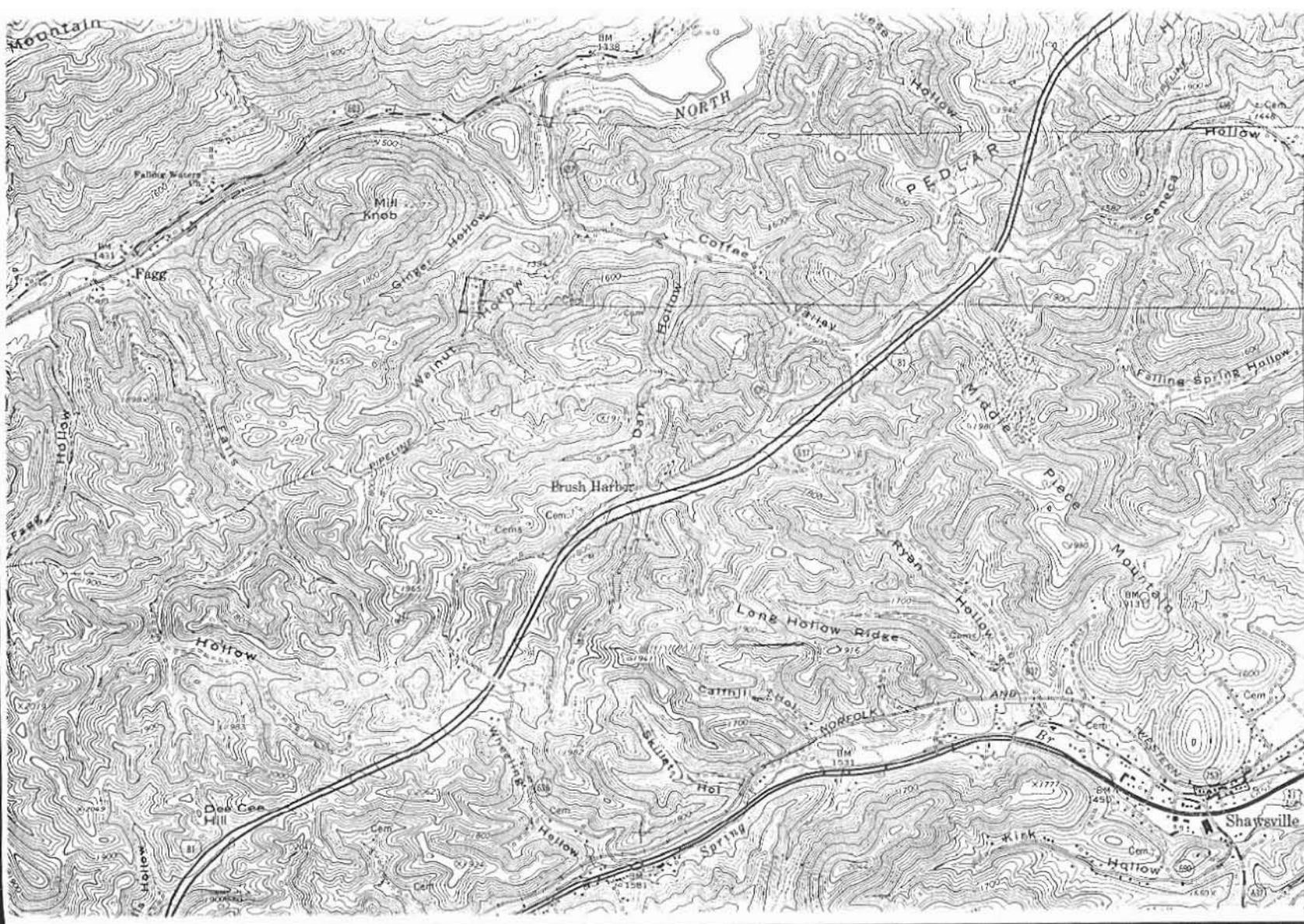
60-392  
Site Plan  
Nealy Gordon Farm





NEALY GORDON FARM MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VA  
 FIRST FLOOR PLAN  
 SURVEYED BY: G.W. MAY 1986  
 NO. 60-392

$\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'-0''$  0 1/2' 4' 6' 8' 10'



BRIDGE OVER NORTH FORK  
OF THE POWDER RIVER  
17 562340 4117870

NEELY GORDON FARM  
17 561920 4116430

IRONTON  
QUAD

SHAWVILLE HISTORIC  
DISTRICT  
17 565975 4113690  
17 566247 4113740  
17 566270 4113664  
17 566040 4113619